Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	Nil
Safdarjung Hospital	1

However, a newly created post of Sr. Physiotherapist for CTVS (Plan) was filled up in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital by promotion *w.e.f.* 10.8.2001.

(c) and (d) No common seniority list of the Physiotherapists of Dr. R. M. L. and Safdarjung Hospitals is maintained. The vacant post at Safdarjung Hospital will be filled up from amongst the feeder grades as per the provisions of Recruitment Rules.

Increasing the number of doctors

3537. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether infant mortality is 72 per 1000 births and one out of every 100 babies born is a heart patient;

(b) whether more than one crore people in the country are blind and there is also increasing pressure on health care services;

(c) whether only 2.5 lakh doctors at the undergraduate level are produced every year in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to increase the number of doctors passing out every year so that cheap and best medical services are available in villages too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India has reported the infant Mortality Rate of 68 per 1000 births for the year 2000. The information on the incidence of babies born with heart problem (congenital heart disease) is not readily available in the country since these are not easily detected and reported. The estimated blind persons as per 1986—89 National Survey when projected to 1991 was 1.24 crore. This number is as per the Government of India's definition of blindness.

(c) and (d) There are at present 190 Medical Colleges in the country with the total intake of 21,000 per year. Based on the Essentiality Certificate given by the respective State Governments and on the recommendation of the MCI, New Medical Colleges are permitted by the Central Government.